

COUNTRY DATA: Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Information from the CIA

INTRODUCTION

An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. Five years later, Japan formally annexed the entire peninsula. Following World War II, Korea was split with the northern half coming under Soviet-sponsored Communist control. After failing in the Korean War (1950-53) to conquer the US-backed Republic of Korea (ROK) in the southern portion by force, North Korea (DPRK), under its founder President KIM Il Sung, adopted a policy of ostensible diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. The DPRK demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system through state-funded propaganda, and molded political, economic, and military policies around the core ideological objective of eventual unification of Korea under Pyongyang's control. KIM Il Sung's son, the current ruler KIM Jong Il, was officially designated as his father's successor in 1980, assuming a growing political and managerial role until the elder KIM's death in 1994. In 2010, KIM Jong Il began the process of preparing the way for his youngest son, KIM Jong Un, to succeed him in power. After decades of economic mismanagement and resource misallocation, the DPRK since the mid-1990s has relied heavily on international aid to feed its population. North Korea's history of regional military provocations, proliferation of military-related items, long-range missile development, WMD programs including tests of nuclear devices in 2006 and 2009, and massive conventional armed forces are of major concern to the international community. The regime has marked 2012, the centenary of KIM Il Sung's birth, a banner year; to that end, the country has been focused on development of the economy.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Eastern Asia, northern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan, between China and South Korea
Area	total: 120,538 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>98</u> land: 120,408 sq km water: 130 sq km
Climate	temperate with rainfall concentrated in summer
Natural Resources	coal, lead, tungsten, zinc, graphite, magnesite, iron ore, copper, gold, pyrites, salt, fluorspar, hydropower
Total Renewable Water Resources	77.1 cu km (1999)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 9.02 cu km/yr (20%/25%/55%) per capita: 401 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural Hazards	late spring droughts often followed by severe flooding; occasional typhoons during the early fall volcanism: Changbaishan (elev. 2,744 m, 9,003 ft) (also known as Baitoushan, Baegdu or P'aektu-san), on the Chinese border, is considered historically active
Environmental Issues	water pollution; inadequate supplies of potable water; waterborne disease; deforestation; soil erosion and degradation
PEOPLE	
Population	24,457,492 (July 2011 est.)
Ethnic Groups	racially homogeneous; there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese
Religions	traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way) <i>note: autonomous religious activities now almost nonexistent; government-sponsored religious groups exist to provide illusion of religious freedom</i>
Languages	Korean
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 99% male: 99% female: 99%
Major Infectious Diseases	N/A
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Communist state one-man dictatorship
Independence	15 August 1945 (from Japan)
Constitution	adopted 1948; revised several times most recently in 2009
Legal System	based on Prussian civil law system with Japanese influences and Communist legal theory; no judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	rice, corn, potatoes, soybeans, pulses; cattle, pigs, pork, eggs
Industries	military products; machine building, electric power, chemicals; mining (coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, and precious metals), metallurgy; textiles, food processing; tourism
Import commodities	petroleum, coking coal, machinery and equipment, textiles, grain
Import Partners	China 61%, South Korea 24%, Singapore 2%, India 2% (2009 est.)

Export Commodities	minerals, metallurgical products, manufactures (including armaments), textiles, agricultural and fishery products
Export Partners	South Korea 47%, China 40%, Hong Kong 2% (2009 est.)
Per Capita GDP	\$1,800 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	NA%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: DPR KOREA

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	67.7
Average number of years in School (in years)	..
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	..
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	20.1
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	..
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	..
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	60.7
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	80.7
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	97
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	-
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	..
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	..

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	88
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	72
Population without Access to Water (%)	0
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	..
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	460
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	60.2
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	..
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	..
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	..
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	9.1
Population without Electricity (%)	74.3

